

RESOURCES AND LINKS

From Session 1: What is Environmental Justice?

March 17, 2021

of Watershed Action Alliance's conference

Environmental Justice in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island

Watch the [video](#) of the session

Background on Environmental Justice (EJ)

- Details on MA EJ legislation: <https://watershedaction.org/learn-along> (Month 4 for details on MA EJ legislation and Month 8 for how legal issues affected the fight against the Weymouth, MA Natural Gas Compressor)
- Environmental Racism is defined as “environmental injustice that occurs within a racialized context both in practice and policy.” For more, read *How Systemic Racism Determines Health Outcomes for Black Americans* <http://bit.ly/3ezFd4d>
- EJ maps for Massachusetts including downloadable pdfs, ArcGIS shapefiles and an interactive map viewer: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/environmental-justice-populations-in-massachusetts#downloadable-maps-&-files->
- EJ map for Rhode Island: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/envequity/graphics/ejareas.jpg>;

Solutions and ACTION

- Centering EJ at the EPA <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>, join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov
- New Federal EJ policy. See *A Guide to the Biden Administration's All-of-Government Approach to Environmental Justice* <http://bit.ly/38BpRZr>
- Public participation in movements like Renew New England Alliance <https://www.renewnewenglandalliance.org/>, Just Recovery <https://climatejusticealliance.org/just-recovery/> and others.
- **Mass Power Forward 2021 Priorities** <https://www.mapowerforward.com/>
 - **Find your Mass. Legislators at** <http://bit.ly/2GJXzXk>
 - **S.9 – Next Generation Climate Bill** - Contains last year's EJ bill provisions, including adding cumulative impacts and climate change when evaluating projects. Passed by Senate on Monday! Ask House members to pass Senate version and override a veto if necessary.
 - **New EJ and 100% clean energy bills with links to fact sheets:** <http://bit.ly/3eNwqMr>
 - **Environmental Justice Table** briefing: bit.ly/3cyQlf
 - **Mass Renews Alliance** briefing: **March 22**. Sign up to attend OR to get a link to the recording at bit.ly/3lletWM
 - **100% Clean Act** briefing: https://youtu.be/eTwBMKt_jsE

Further learning on environmental justice

- [Environmental Justice Learn-along](#). In 2020, Watershed Action Alliance hosted a series of meetings with guest speakers on EJ and diversity, equity and inclusion topics. Videos, readings, and more are posted [here](#).

- [Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians out of Existence in New England](#), by Jean O'Brien. The author argues that local histories became a primary means by which European Americans asserted their own modernity while denying it to Indian peoples. Drawing on more than six hundred local histories from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, Jean M. O'Brien explores how these narratives inculcated the myth of Indian extinction, a myth that has stubbornly remained in the American consciousness.
- In [Pollution Is Colonialism](#), author Max Liboiron presents a framework for understanding scientific research methods as practices that can align with or against colonialism. They point out that even when researchers are working toward benevolent goals, environmental science and activism are often premised on a colonial worldview and access to land. Focusing on plastic pollution, the book models an anticolonial scientific practice aligned with Indigenous, particularly Métis, concepts of land, ethics, and relations. Liboiron draws on their work in the Civic Laboratory for Environmental Action Research (CLEAR)—an anticolonial science laboratory in Newfoundland, Canada—to illuminate how pollution is not a symptom of capitalism but a violent enactment of colonial land relations that claim access to Indigenous land. Liboiron's creative, lively, and passionate text refuses theories of pollution that make Indigenous land available for settler and colonial goals. In this way, their methodology demonstrates that anticolonial science is not only possible but is currently being practiced in ways that enact more ethical modes of being in the world.
- Intersectional environmentalism. www.intersectionalenvironmentalist.com/about-ie Intersectional environmentalism, a term largely inspired by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw and her work with critical race theory, is an inclusive form of environmentalism that advocates for the protection of all people and the planet. It identifies the ways in which injustices affecting marginalized communities and Mother Earth are interconnected. Intersectional environmentalism not only acknowledges these links, but brings them to the forefront of environmental activism without minimizing or silencing overt and discreet forms of oppression.
- [Website of Myles Lennon](#) with links to papers, video, recommended readings, and syllabi. Dr. Lennon is an environmental anthropologist, Dean's Assistant Professor of Environment & Society and Anthropology at Brown University, and a former sustainable energy policy practitioner. His research explores how rooftop solar, "resiliency" microgrids, and other climate mitigation infrastructures simultaneously reinforce and upend entrenched structures of power as they materialize across long-standing race and class divisions in New York City. Dr. Lennon's scholarly and teaching interests include the anthropology of energy, environmental intersectionality and the co-production of race and nature, multispecies ethnography, climate justice and environmental justice, science and technology studies, affect theory, and the epistemological politics of climate mitigation efforts.